

RFS14

INTELLIGENCE (NEWS IN DEPTH)

BY RALPH HARRIS

WASHINGTON, REUTER - A DRASTIC SHAKE-UP IN AMERICA'S GLOBE-CIRCLING INTELLIGENCE NETWORK HAS PUT MORE POWER IN THE HANDS OF WHITE HOUSE ADVISER HENRY KISSINGER.

THE GERMAN-BORN DR. KISSINGER, ALREADY PERHAPS THE MOST INFLUENTIAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL EXCEPT FOR PRESIDENT NIXON HIMSELF, HAS THE PRESIDENT'S EAR ON ALL FOREIGN POLICY AND SECURITY PROBLEMS.

NOW, HE HAS BEEN GIVEN THE KEY JOB OF PROVIDING GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION TO CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (C.I.A.) DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS. HELMS IN TURN HAS BEEN GIVEN NEW AUTHORITY TO COORDINATE THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN BRANCHES OF THE INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS, WHICH HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN RIVALS IN THE PAST.

THE REORGANIZATION HAS ALREADY DRAWN CRITICISM FROM SENATORS WHO FEAR THAT DR. KISSINGER'S SPECIAL ADVISORY POSITION COULD PUT HIM BEYOND THE REACH OF CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO SEEK AN ACCOUNTING.

THE 48-YEAR-OLD FORMER PROFESSOR GAINED MORE INTERNATIONAL PROMINENCE THAN EVE WITH A THRILLER-STYLE SECRET MISSION TO PEKING IN JULY TO ARRANGE FOR A VISIT THERE BY PRESIDENT NIXON NEXT YEAR.

HE IS NOW IN AN UNCHALLENGEABLE POSITION TO OVERSEE THE SECRET INFORMATION WHICH HE USES TO RECOMMEND POLICY DECISIONS TO THE PRESIDENT.

REORGANIZATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICES WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE WHITE HOUSE ON NOVEMBER 5 AFTER A LONG STUDY OF THE TRIUMPHS AND FAILURES OF THE C.I.A. AND THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES--AND THE BATTLES BETWEEN THEM OVER INTERPRETING INFORMATION.

THE OFFICIAL AIM OF THE SHAKE-UP WAS A MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM.

THE U.S. INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS IS UNOFFICIALLY REPORTED TO EMPLOY 200,000 PEOPLE AND TO COST FIVE BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR.

HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS WERE KNOWN TO FEEL THAT IT HAD GROWN TOO BIG AND COSTLY IN TERMS OF THE AMOUNT OF RELIABLE OR USEFUL INFORMATION IT PRODUCED, AND THAT SOME OF ITS MISTAKES HAD PROVED EXPENSIVE IN TERMS OF NATIONAL PRESTIGE.

THE MOST CELEBRATED FAILURE OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE WAS PROBABLY AN ABORTIVE INVASION BY CUBAN EXILES AT THE BAY OF PIGS, SOUTHERN CUBA, WHICH IT PROMOTED IN 1963. AN EXPECTED REVOLT OF THE ISLAND'S PEOPLE AGAINST PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO'S GOVERNMENT FAILED TO MATERIALIZE.

BUT A MAIN REASON FOR THE SWEEPING CHANGES ORDERED BY THE WHITE HOUSE NOW WAS APPARENTLY PRESIDENT NIXON'S UNHAPPINESS OVER THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE PLANNING THAT WENT INTO AN ABORTIVE RAID ON A PRISON CAMP IN NORTHERN VIETNAM IN NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR.

THE CAMP WAS BELIEVED TO HOLD AMERICAN PRISONERS. HELICOPTER-BORNE TEAMS OF ASSAULT TROOPS SWOOPED ON THE SON TAY CAMP NEAR HANOI AFTER MONTHS OF PAINSTAKING PLANNING AND INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING--ONLY TO FIND THERE WERE NO PRISONERS THERE TO BE RESCUED.

HELMS HAS NOW BEEN PLACED IN A POSITION TO COORDINATE THE WORK OF THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, AND KISSINGER HAS BEEN NAMED TO PUT THE WHITE HOUSE SEAL ON THE ENTIRE ESPIONAGE OPERATION.

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INTELLIGENCE WASHINGTON
HELMS, RELIEVED OF HIS DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE
C.I.A., IS CHAIRMAN OF A NEW INTELLIGENCE BOARD. THIS GROUP
WILL CONSIDER NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITIES,
THE SECURITY OF DATA, AND THE PROTECTION OF INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
AND METHODS.

THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (N.S.C.) STAFF IN THE WHITE
HOUSE, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. KISSINGER, HAS BEEN GIVEN THE
CONTROLLING VOICE.

A NEW N.S.C. INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN FORMED, HEADED
BY DR. KISSINGER AND INCLUDING ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN MITCHELL.
IT WILL GIVE DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE ON NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
NEEDS AND EVALUATE THE USEFULNESS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED.

THIS MEANS THAT DR. KISSINGER WILL HAVE TIGHT CONTROL OVER
THE INTELLIGENCE SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT BY THE VARIOUS
INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, WHOSE REPORTS ARE SOMETIMES INFLUENCED
BY BUDGET NEEDS OF THE PENTAGON AND OTHER PARENT AGENCIES.

THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF ITSELF WILL PRODUCE ASSESSMENTS OF
THE STRATEGIC BALANCE BETWEEN THE MAJOR POWERS, TAKING OVER FROM
THE AGENCIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF COLORING THEM TO FIT
THEIR NEEDS.

THESE ASSESSMENTS ARE CRITICAL FACTORS IN BATTLES OVER MILITARY
AND CIVILIAN PRIORITIES AND STRUGGLES AMONG THE INDIVIDUAL
MILITARY SERVICES FOR BUDGET FUNDS.

THE NEW COMMITTEE IN THE WHITE HOUSE HAS BEEN NAMED THE
NET ASSESSMENT GROUP (NAG)--AND ITS INITIALS APPROPRIATELY
DESCRIBE ITS JOB.

"THE FUNCTION OF NAG WILL BE JUST WHAT ITS NAME SUGGESTS--
TO NAG THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY," SAID ONE OFFICIAL CLOSE TO
THE INTELLIGENCE SCENE.

ITS TASK, IN ADDITION TO KEEPING THE INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS
ON ITS TOES, IS TO PRODUCE COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF THE RELATIVE
STRENGTH OF WORLD POWERS. IT WILL DO THIS BY PULLING TOGETHER
INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES FROM ALL OVER THE GOVERNMENT--POLITICAL,
MILITARY AND ECONOMIC.

THE REORGANIZATION SHOULD RELEGATE TO THE PAST A RECENT
DISPUTE BETWEEN THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, WHICH BELIEVE
THERE IS A HIGH LEVEL OF THREAT FROM SOVIET MISSILE DEVELOPMENT,
AND THE C.I.A., WHICH IS SAID TO BE MORE SCEPTICAL ABOUT THIS.

THE SHAKE-UP HAS CAUSED CONCERN IN THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT,
WHICH SEES AN END TO INDEPENDENCE IN INTERPRETING INTELLIGENCE
AND RECOMMENDING ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT.

DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY DAVID PACKARD CRITICIZED THE NEW
SET-UP, SAYING HE DID NOT SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT INTELLIGENCE
WOULD BE IMPROVED IF THE WHITE HOUSE KEPT A TIGHTER REIN ON IT.

"AFTER HAVING EXPERIENCE WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE WHITE
HOUSE THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, TRYING TO COORDINATE ALL SORT
OF THINGS, I THINK IF ANYTHING WE NEED A LITTLE LESS COORDINATION
FROM THAT POINT," HE SAID.

THE REORGANIZATION DREW FIRE FROM A NUMBER OF PROMINENT
SENATORS, WHO FEEL IT GIVES THE WHITE HOUSE AN OPPORTUNITY
TO DENY INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION TO CONGRESS.

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT OF ARKANSAS,
CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND STUART SYMINGTON
OF MISSOURI, SAW DANGERS IN INCREASING THE POWERS OF DR.
KISSINGER, WHO, AS A WHITE HOUSE ADVISER, IS BEYOND THE DIRECT
REACH OF CONGRESS AND CANNOT READILY BE TAKEN TO ACCOUNT FOR HIS
STEWARDSHIP.

SENATOR SYMINGTON DEMANDED CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS TO EXAMINE
THE NEW INTELLIGENCE ARRANGEMENT, COMPLAINING THAT CONGRESS
ACCESS TO INTELLIGENCE WAS ALREADY SEVERELY RESTRICTED.

SENATOR FULBRIGHT HAS VAINLY SOUGHT TO FORCE DR.
KISSINGER TO TESTIFY BEFORE HIS COMMITTEE ON VIETNAM AND OTHER
FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

EARLIER THIS YEAR THE SENATOR, A MAJOR CRITIC OF SOME
ADMINISTRATION POLICIES, INTRODUCED WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS "THE
KISSINGER BILL." IT WOULD SET UP NEW RULES LIMITING THE EXERCISE
OF "EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE," WHICH THE PRESIDENT CAN INVOKE TO
KEEP CONGRESS FROM QUESTIONING MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF.